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**From:** Scharf, Steven (DEC) [steven.scharf@dec.ny.gov]  
**Sent:** 9/3/2014 2:41:59 PM  
**To:** Stein, Carol [Stein.Carol@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: Schumer's Press Release, Re: Farmingdale/Bethpage/Massapequa Drinking Water Issue  
**Attachments:** removed.txt

Carol,

Thanks for the article. Had already gotten a copy of the article from our Citizen Participation group. I think the holdup is twofold. Due to all the law suits, the money pot has moved from NAVAIR to the DOJ; and two, the Navy feels the system is overdesigned, cost too much and RD/RA was not competitively bid. We try to stay out of this fight and wait for the end result.

Thanks,  
Steve

Steven M. Scharf, P.E.  
Project Engineer  
New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Environmental Remediation  
Remedial Bureau A  
625 Broadway 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12233-7015  
518-402-9620

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**From:** Stein, Carol [mailto:Stein.Carol@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 03, 2014 9:58 AM  
**To:** Mannino, Pietro; Garbarini, Doug  
**Cc:** Scharf, Steven (DEC); Alvey, Robert  
**Subject:** FW: Schumer's Press Release, Re: Farmingdale/Bethpage/Massapequa Drinking Water Issue

FYI. As noted below, Rob Alvey sent the initial news article to Berry Shore.

Carol A. Stein, P.E.  
Environmental Engineer  
Mega Projects Section, SPB  
USEPA  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
212-637-4181

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**From:** Shore, Berry  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 03, 2014 9:54 AM  
**To:** Alvey, Robert  
**Cc:** Stein, Carol; McGowan, Michael; Martin, John; Kluesner, Dave; Echols, Cecilia  
**Subject:** Schumer's Press Release, Re: Farmingdale/Bethpage/Massapequa Drinking Water Issue

Rob:

Here is the Senator's press release on this:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 2, 2014

**SCHUMER: NAVY'S YEARS OF FOOT DRAGGING ON REIMBURSEMENTS TO SOUTH FARMINGDALE WATER DISTRICT COULD COST LOCAL CONSUMERS MILLIONS IN UNJUST COSTS ON WATER BILLS —DEMANDS NAVY STEP UP & PAY THE CHECK**

***South Farmingdale Water District Has Borrowed Almost \$5 Million From the Town of Oyster Bay to Construct Water Treatment Facility in S. Farmingdale to Purify Ground Water Impacted by Bethpage Plume Contamination, Which the Navy Caused***

***The Navy & The Dept. of Justice Have Taken Several Years to Meet Obligations & Pay South Farmingdale Millions Owed – Each Year Navy Delays Will Cost Consumers \$1.5 Million Over the Course of the Loan***

***Schumer Urges U.S. Navy & Department of Justice to Reimburse South Farmingdale Water District Immediately— Says Residents Should Not Be On the Hook***

Today, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer and the South Farmingdale Water District (SFWD) called on the United States Navy and Department of Justice (D.O.J.) to prevent significant water bill increases for Farmingdale's thousands of residents and immediately follow through on the Navy's years-old obligation to reimburse the SFWD for the capital costs, operating and maintenance of the water treatment facility, which was constructed at Plant No. 3, Hicksville Road, Seaford, New York.

SFWD has borrowed almost \$5 million from the Town of Oyster Bay to construct the Plant 3 water treatment facility to filter and purify the ground water impacted by the Bethpage plume. Repaying the bond will cost consumers \$1.5 million each year over the course of the loan, and Schumer says consumers should not be on the hook for something they didn't create. Each month that passes will increase the unfair burden on SFWD and its thousands of customers, and Schumer will say that the federal government must step up quickly in order to prevent these costs from being passed on to ratepayers, as is expected to occur in the near future.

"South Farmingdale Water District consumers didn't cause this mess and they shouldn't have to pay to clean it up," **said Schumer**. "The Navy and Department of Justice should stop stringing the Water District along and provide the resources needed to pay down the bonds and prevent water rates from sky-rocketing. It is bad enough that consumers have to deal with the Grumman plume – they shouldn't have to pay extra to do so."

Schumer stood at SFWD Plant No. 3 alongside SFWD Commissioners Ralph Atoria, John Hirt and Gary Brosnan, along with James Rigano, legal counsel to SFWD and Gary Loesch, SFWD's lead engineer from H2M.

The U.S. Navy operated the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage, New York for several decades, which resulted in soil and significant groundwater contamination containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The SFWD, as well as other neighboring Water Districts, were approached in November 2000 by the U.S. Navy relative to a widespread groundwater contamination plume\* flowing in a southerly direction toward 20 or more public drinking wells that serve over 250,000 Nassau County residents across South Farmingdale, Bethpage, Massapequa and Wantagh Water Districts.

The Navy developed a water contingency plan in connection with N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that resulted in the Navy constructing outpost monitoring wells upgradient of Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 3 in SFWD.

The Navy agreed that if contamination from their site was identified in the outpost monitoring wells, they would pay for all future costs that the water suppliers would incur for the required treatment facilities or abandonment and replacement of the respective wells. In 2004, the outpost monitoring wells upgradient of Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 3 indicated that they were impacted by contamination from the naval plant site at levels above the trigger values agreed to by the Navy, DEC and SFWD.

In 2010, SFWD determined that it could no longer wait to receive the settlement from the Navy and was approved by the Town of Oyster Bay to bond up to \$18 million to design and construct the necessary treatment facilities at both Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 3, with Plant No. 1 starting in late March 2010, and Plant No. 3 starting in 2012. If the treatment facilities were not constructed in time, it was possible that SFWD would be forced to close down or restrict wells at Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 3.

The SFWD pursued a reimbursement settlement with the Navy for Plant No. 1, and in 2010 with the assistance of Senator Schumer received \$14.5 million to cover all construction, maintenance and operation costs. Now, Schumer is demanding that a settlement be reached with the U.S. Navy and the D.O.J. on Plant No. 3. To date, SFWD has not received any reimbursement payments and the delay has caused SFWD to make its final payment for construction. If reimbursement is not made immediately, water rates for all consumers will go up.

"We are here to protect the taxpayer. It's that simple. They shouldn't have to pay for these treatment plants," **Schumer continued**. "The Navy knows they need to pay, and they've said so. Now they need to stop dragging their feet and pay up."

The SFWD Board of Commissioners have continually expressed that all water pumped from all wells meet or exceed all local, state and federal standards. The Commissioners had no choice but to design, construct and build both treatment facilities in order to ensure that the water delivered within the District is safe to drink.

If the treatment facilities were not constructed in time, there was the potential that the District would have had to close down or restrict wells at both Plants No. 1 and 3. The four wells at these two sites provide nearly 40% of the District's well capacity, which are needed to meet existing water supply and fire flow demands. The loss of any of these wells could adversely impact SFWD's ability to meet peak and emergency pumping requirements, thereby impacting the ability to deliver an adequate water supply to its 45,000 consumers.

While the District would have preferred to have the money in hand from the Navy prior to building the treatment facilities, it could no longer tolerate any further delays and had to proceed with both treatment projects.

Senator Schumer said his office has been sending letters and speaking with the Navy by phone asking them to commit to a timetable for reaching a final agreement on payment. Since these communications, the Navy has not complied.

**Schumer added**, "I will do what's necessary to get the Navy to attend to this immediately. Our consumers should not be burdened with these additional costs, and the District should not have to be put in this situation."

\*The plume is approximately 12,100 feet long, 9,600 feet wide and 580 feet deep.

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**From:** Alvey, Robert

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 03, 2014 9:29 AM

**To:** Shore, Berry

**Cc:** Stein, Carol

**Subject:** Newsday 9/3/14 - Navy/South Farmingdale Public supply wells (Schumer)

Hi Berry. This was in today's Newsday. Another Northrop/Grumman-Navy news.

Didn't see it in the postings you send out.

Regards

Rob Alvey


<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/schumer-urges-feds-to-pay-up-for-seaford-new-water-treatment-plant-1.9208493>

Newsday Sept 3, 2014

## **Schumer urges feds to pay for new Seaford water treatment plant**

Updated September 2, 2014 10:11 PM

By DARRAN SIMON [darran.simon@newsday.com](mailto:darran.simon@newsday.com)



U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer speaks with Alison Auriemmo, of H2M Water as he and the South Farmingdale Water District call on the United States Navy and Department of Justice to prevent significant water bill increases for Farmingdale's tens of thousands of residents and immediately follow through on the Navy's years old obligation to reimburse the capital costs, operating and maintenance of the water treatment facility, which was constructed at Plant No. 3, Hicksville Road on Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014 in Seaford. (Credit: Howard Schnapp)

The federal government should keep its pledge to pay for a new treatment plant in Seaford that purifies water impacted by contamination from the former Northrop Grumman aviation manufacturing site, Sen. Charles Schumer said Tuesday. If the Navy doesn't honor its agreement to pay for construction and operation of the South Farmingdale Water District plant, which the district paid for with a \$5 million bond, then taxpayers could pay an additional \$1,200 over the life of a 20-year bond -- or \$60 more a year -- according to Schumer (D-N.Y.).

"I am calling on the Navy and the Department of Justice to step up to the plate and hand over the check, and hand over the check now," he said of the Seaford plant. "The Navy and Grumman created the mess; it shouldn't be the water ratepayers that have to pay to clean up the mess."

After years of negotiations, the district secured a \$14.5 million settlement from the Navy in 2010, with Schumer's help, for construction and operation of another water treatment plant on Langdon Road in Farmingdale. The district is seeking \$7.5 million for the Hicksville Road plant in Seaford.

But talks have stalled with the Justice Department, which is negotiating for the Navy, over payment for the Hicksville Road plant completed in the spring. The plant removes iron and volatile organic compounds from 1,400 gallons of water a minute from a supply well in the path of the plume from the Northrop Grumman site in Bethpage.

A Navy official could not immediately comment on Schumer's appeal.

Gary E. Loesch, the district's lead engineer, said the \$7.5 million includes reimbursement for the \$5 million bond from the Town of Oyster Bay for construction and for operational costs over 30 years. He said the district needs "the money ASAP and no later than the next three months."

He said the district has to include its water rates when it submits a 2015 budget to the Town of Oyster Bay this month. Loesch said the average water bill for 15,000 customers could be affected if the district doesn't get the money by year's end.

Schumer said the district has already made the final payment on construction.

In 2000, the Navy advised the district that its wells could be impacted by the plume, the district said. By then, the district said, the plume had traveled south of Hempstead Turnpike.

Loesch said the contamination hasn't reached the Hicksville well.

Chemicals showed up in monitoring wells in 2004, triggering a contingency plan directing the Navy to set up treatment, which included paying for plants' construction and operation. But the district didn't get the money and secured \$18 million in bonds from Oyster Bay in 2008 for both plants.

In 2010, the district received the \$14.5 million for the Langdon Road plant.